

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 25TH February 2024

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles

Hymns

Read: Genesis Text Genesis 43:14

Series: Joseph Title: Giving To The Sovereign (4) The
Petition

In reading **Genesis 42-43** you will have noted a change of
name between Jacob and Israel.

Remember, God changed Jacob's name to Israel in **Genesis
32:28** *And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob,
but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with
men, and hast prevailed.*

Similar words are repeated in **Genesis 35:10.**

(**Genesis 35:10** *And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob:
thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall
be thy name: and he called his name Israel.*)

*The name **Jacob** meant **deceiver, supplanter, and twister**, it
was a name that symbolised the natural man, and fleshly man.*

*However, the name Israel meant **power with God and man** it
symbolised a new man, a spiritual mind.*

*You see at times Jacob lives and acts like the fleshly man, he
doubts, he fears, he becomes anxious, he bears the burdens of
life upon himself and at times he forgets the Lord's ways, and he
concludes in **Genesis 42:36** "**...all these things are against
me.**" He failed to see that God was working for him not against
him.*

However, in **Genesis 43** in preparing his sons to meet the Lord of the land of Egypt, **he must trust God**, in permitting Benjamin to travel to Egypt as commanded by the Sovereign of the land, and for that reason the name Israel is used from **verse 6**, but its interesting to see, that in **verse 14** Israel prays for his sons.

He brings his family to the throne of grace in prayer, as one who has power with God, to have power with man, in this case the ruler of Egypt.

V14 And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin. If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved

Israel prays that his sons will find favour in the sight of the Lord of the land, be accepted, and that both Simon and Benjamin will return home.

What a lesson that is our own lives men and woman.

Parents pray for your children.

How many times do we act like Jacob the fleshly man, and grieve the Lord by a thousand falls, we doubt, fear, we imagine the worst,

there are more times when we think that God is not working for us in the different areas of life, family, work, social, church, health, financial, and we have said “...**all these things are against me,**”

when instead we must as like Israel, trust God, to have power with God, and in such times get straight to prayer and know we come to God almighty,

And... know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

God is not working against His people rather He is always working for you and in you, to strengthen, provide, bless and make you more like Christ.

Having considered **The preparation, path and prostration in giving to the Sovereign**, notice: **those are things that Israel instructed His sons to give, but now Israel himself as their father, pray for them as they go before the sovereign.**

IV FOURTH, THE PETITION IN GIVING TO THE SOVEREIGN.

1 This petition rests on God's power

It's interesting to learn how Israel prays.

He mentions the name **God almighty** which is the name God revealed Himself to him years before in **Genesis 35**, when God changed Jacob's name to Israel, declaring in **verse 11** **... I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;**

These were the same words spoken to Jacob's father, Isaac and his grandfather Abraham in **Ps 105:8-10** **"He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which He commanded to a thousand generations. ⁹ Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; ¹⁰ And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant."**

On that basis notice:

The name for **God** that Israel uses is **EI**, meaning **the Mighty One, the Powerful One.**

The word **almighty**, is the word **Shaddai** from the Hebrew root word "**shad**", meaning "**breast**", which is a descriptive metaphor presenting God as the one who nurtures, feeds, sustains, and nourishes from His inexhaustible supply, one who is all sufficient.

For that reason the name **God almighty** is also called **El Shaddai or God all sufficient**. There is nothing too hard for Him. He is **Omnipotent** meaning **all powerful**.

It is interesting to note that both **Almighty** meaning **Shaddai** and **shad** meaning **breast** are used in **Genesis 49:25** where Jacob blesses Joseph “ **Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb:**

Therefore, the name God almighty is the name El Shaddai who is all sufficient, whose supply infinite, and nothing is too hard for Him.

Believer, do you realise, that when you pray, you do so to one who is almighty, and whose sufficiency is eternal, infinite and unchanging. He is above all and there is none who can compare to Him.

His ways are past finding out. His judgments are right. He is able to do what He hath said. He is able to do exceeding abundantly **above all** that we ask or think.

Israel had power with God in prayer, and believer you have power with God in prayer.

Parents pray for your children, pray for one another, Pray for the salvation of souls, pray for power with man, because God is almighty, He is all sufficient, and He gives the power needed.

2 This petition rests on God's promise

The first time this name **El Shaddai** or **God almighty** is mentioned in the Bible is in **Genesis 17** in reference to God restating His covenant promise made with Abram in **Genesis 12, and 15**.

Genesis 17:1 *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.* This promise was also stated to Jacob in **Genesis 32 and 35**.

Remember in **Genesis 32** when Jacob was distressed as he thought his brother Esau was out to slay him, and there in prayer, Jacob pleads the promise of God, **Genesis 32:12** *“thou saidst I will surely do thee good and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.*

He brings God’s promise back to Him *thou saidst*.

Because this very promise was re-stated and re-emphasised by God on many occasions, to Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham, as in **Gen 12:3** *“In thee shall all nations of the earth be blessed* It was clear from this verse that Abrahams seed was physical, literal as Israel’s seed.

Abram’s name meaning **exalted father**, was changed to **Abraham** which means **the father of a great multitude** – a name of blessing.

Even the Jews in Christ’s day prided themselves in being from Abraham’s seed, as Christ sated in **John 8:33, 37**.

Without tracing the whole genealogy, allow me just to say, that through Abraham’s seed line would come the promised Saviour, recorded in **Gen 3:15**.

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, his son Judah, and from Judah’s line kings would come which, included David who came into a royal line.

Therefore, there had to be a physical or natural seed line from Abraham to Jacob to David, why, because of the birth of Jesus Christ the ultimate seed of Abraham, Israel’s grandfather.

Gen 22:18 God said to Abraham, *“in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed...”*

Paul said in **Galatians 3:16** *Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.* **John 7:42** *“That Christ cometh of the seed of David.”* So He would come through David’s family line.

Mathew 1 gives the genealogy, **Matthew 1:1** *“the book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”*

Israel is praying as his sons go to Egypt and one of those sons is Judah, then based on God’s promise concerning a future seed line and the words to Jacob **kings shall come out of thy loins, then have mercy, spare them**, because the promise concerns the greatest King that came from Jacob’s line but it was not David, nor Solomon, but King Jesus.

Everything centres upon Christ in His first & second coming.

God’s sufficiency is revealed through Christ and given by Christ to sinners in need.

Therefore, Christian, when you pray, have Christ always at the center, rest on the promises of God which are yea and amen in Christ.

When you pray, say to God **thou saidst**.

prayer is talking to God about what He said He will do.

Prayer is not pleading with God do something against His will, rather, bring before Him His word, thou saidst now Lord do as you have said.

If you cannot pray lifting up Christ, and pray His word back to Him, **thou saidst** then your prayer is as the hypocrites, vain babbling and vainglory.

He is El Shaddai, He is your all-sufficient Saviour, He nourishes, and sustains His people. He is our strength and safety. All you need is found and supplied by Him because He is All sufficient.

Are you in need for provision pray ***thou saidst because He has promised to supply our needs.***

Are you burdened for souls, for London to be reached with the gospel, pray thou saidst I will build my church, thou saidst I will save my people from their sins, Lord do in this place.

Worship and walk in Him, trust and obey Him for His promises cannot fail, as they depend on who He is, God Almighty.

3 This petition rests on God's purpose . And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin. If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.

The word **mercy** means ***compassion, favour, pity, kindness.*** Israel is praying that this man, the Lord of the land and sovereign ruler will show favour, mercy and kindness towards his sons, by God's intervention, in sparing life, giving provisions, setting the prisoner free, giving a safety journey home.

We know the man in view is Joseph, though unknown to them. He is the man God's mercy will be demonstrated.

What a view we have of another man, a greater man, the man Christ Jesus, who is all and the only sufficient Saviour of sinners.

God's mercy and compassion is seen through the life and death of Jesus Christ in saving sinners.

Nehemiah prayed in **Nehemiah 9:31** "***for thou art a gracious and merciful God.***

There is mercy with Christ, that's what's pictured by Israel's prayer.

Remember, God's covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob rested on mercy demonstrated to sinners of every nation through Christ who came from the line of Israel's son Judah.

God's covenant dealing was both physical and spiritual and both fulfilled by Christ.

Through Abraham, the nations would be blessed. **Gen 22:18** God said to Abraham, "***in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed...***"

To Jacob, God said, ***a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins***; its clear the reference includes but also goes beyond the physical seed to a spiritual seed.

Paul stated **Gal 3:7** "***Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.***"

Paul brings his thoughts to a close in **Gal 3:28-29** "***There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus***²⁹ ***And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.***"

God's purpose in Christ is redemption, the saving of sinners both Jew and gentile, but how does that impact Israel's prayer, concerning the spiritual seed. ***And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin.***

In God's purposes of redemption Benjamin's safety is central for the furtherance of the gospel.

Let me ask you a question? What Jew was saved from the tribe of Benjamin and his name changed and then spread the gospel

to gentiles throughout Europe, **Acts 15:14**, ***to take out of them a people for His name.***” Saul of Tarsus then named Paul.

Paul said in **Philippians 3:5** he was ***of the tribe of Benjamin***, **Acts 26:17-18** “...***Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,¹⁸ To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.***”

The forgiveness of sins is the greatest need of sinners and is the greatest blessing to come to fallen man.

God’s purpose is to give mercy, to set the prisoner free and guarantee a safe return home to the father.

Israel petitions God, based on His everlasting covenant. He prays with Christ in view, He prays for his children based on God’s power, promise and plan of mercy in Christ.

To miss Christ in the covenant of mercy is to miss the message and the messenger of the covenant.

Every covenant blessing God gives to His people is because of Jesus Christ in who He is and all He has accomplished by His sinless life and the shedding of His sacrificial blood.

Therefore, men and woman pray over the purposes of God in your life, that He will perfect that which concerns you. Pray for Church growth.

Dear Father, dear parent pray for your children as Israel did, that God will show them mercy before or in the presence of the man, but this man is our heavenly and eternal Joseph, the Lord Jesus Christ, the man of Calvary, the man of war, the man of glory, that they will find favour in His sight and share in the blessings of the everlasting covenant.

He is El Shaddai, all powerful, all sufficient to save.

This man offered Himself as one sacrifice for sins, this man substituted Himself in the place of guilty sinners, bearing their sins in His own body on the tree, that He might bring them unto God.

Such mercy endureth forever, meaning God will not punish the one who turns to Him for pardon, because they have found mercy in Christ.